

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Ryan, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation-Upper Colorado Region
Jayne Harkins, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation-Lower Colorado Region

FROM: Randy Seaholm
Chief, Water Supply Protection

DATE: November 20, 2002

SUBJECT: 2002 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan

In response to the proposed supplement to the 2002 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan we would note that pursuant to the interim operating criteria and the determination that 2002 was a year of "full domestic surplus" the Secretary of Interior has no authority to deliver water to agricultural interests in southern California in excess of the 3.85 maf to which they are legally entitled. If such occurs, that overrun must be paid back on a one-for-one basis and it must be done so promptly and without conditions.

This years drought has caused innumerable hardships for water users basin wide and while we are willing to support efforts to be helpful to a reasonable degree under these severe circumstances we will not be taken unfair advantage of. Therefore, we are fully supportive of the Secretary's proposed actions in this manner.